

## Essays and Contributions.

### THE WONDERFUL LOVE OF CHRIST.

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How shall I, one of the weakest of God's children, endeavor to talk upon a subject that has been declared by great speakers and writers as beyond human comprehension. In the old Testament we have many proofs of the greatness the power and the rightness of God. But Christ, with the new Testament, brought to us the proof of the love of God. Jesus says as the Father hath loved me I have loved you; love one another as I have loved you. And one of the most wonderful things about the love of Christ is he loved his enemies.

Nothing helps and encourages a Sunday School worker as the thought that the whole Church is interested in the work, and every Brother and Sister in Christ ready to do all they can in the great work of bringing precious souls to the Saviour. One of the greatest works we can do for all Christians is to pray for them. If God be for us who can be against us? Can we expect him to be with us and guide us if we do not ask him? Then pray for the work and the workers, so that God's work can go on and the lambs of Christ's fold gathered in and the workers strengthened. If the Sunday School does not strengthen and increase the Church some one must be neglecting his work. God surely is doing his part.

Are we doing our part? The Sunday School is also a training ground for the church. To it as a training ground we must look for recruits for the noble army of Sunday school workers who are so rapidly dropping out of the ranks of active service? Many would perhaps be willing to take the relation of the Sunday school to the church. The Sunday school and the church are very closely related. They are instituted by the same divine hand, working for the same cause and looking forward towards the same end, the glory of God and the salvation of precious souls. Is not this a noble cause to work for? And should not all Christians be interested in the Sunday school? We should not only be interested but each Christian should lend a hand and assist in the work of gathering precious souls and training them for Christ.

The Sunday school is called the nursery of the church where the young people are gathered and taught from the Word of God. You know if we want to have a thrifty, prosperous vineyard or orchard we are careful to get sets from a good nursery where the plants have been well trained and cultivated; so should the Sunday School as the nursery of the church be very careful to teach and train young minds so as to give them a true, symmetrical Christian character. Jesus commanded his disciples to feed his lambs. God's word, though only declared from the pulpit, is not easily understood by our little folks, while in the Sunday school work, the Sunday school lesson can be so prepared as to be easily understood. Let not then these lambs be forgotten or neglected. Sunday school in one sense is for them and it is so important that their young hearts be led to pure, true and noble thoughts. But it is not enough that the Sunday school be a nursery to the church it, must be a feeder to the church. Truth impressed upon their young hearts must take root and grow so that the plants may come from the nursery into the vineyard of the church as strong branches on the true vine which is Christ Jesus. The whole aim of every Sunday school teacher should be to bring the scholars to Christ. The young people entrusted to your care are to be the men and women of the future, and in their hands will be the future destiny of the church. How careful and earnestly then should the whole church work to teach and train her future supporters, so that God's work can continue growing. The officers and teachers can not conduct a good Sunday school alone; they are simply the churches servants to work. The greatest need of our Sunday school now is more consecrated, earnest prayers and more good fathers and mothers to encourage and help the workers work. God desires trained, efficient workers in his kingdom, and the Sunday school gives us an opportunity to develop them through study of his Word and the consecrated mind, which is so much needed in the services of our Lord. Not one Christian can afford to do without the help of the Sunday school.

Let the ministers pray for encouragement to the Sunday school. The

school is a help to the church in many ways that we can well afford to help to work even though our time be nearly all taken up with other duties. A few kind words of appreciation from the pastor will wonderfully cheer and help the Sunday school workers, and it may influence more of the Christians to take an active interest in the work. Some one has wisely said the amount your class, school or church costs you measure the results. God's home is heaven with all its joys, its beautiful songs, its heavenly associations its wonderful completeness, yet he left even heaven with all its enjoyments to spend a number of weary years wandering upon this earth among people, who, instead of appreciating his kindness and entertaining him as he deserved, persecuted him. All we can do for him is not as good as he deserves. But the people who he came to bless and help to a better, noble life, were often found accusing him of being an impostor, wondering in whose power he performed miracles; mocking him because he associated with people in the humble walks of life, and even trying to have him arrested. In all this did our blessed Saviour speak ill of such people? No: he went about doing good; healing the infirm, lifting the fallen; blessing every home where his weary feet were welcomed. Why? Because he loved us. Finally when his work of love was nearly ended, he permitted false life to betray him, hard hearts and minds to mock at his sufferings. Why? Because he loved us. He who had never committed sin, who was purity itself, was finally nailed to the cruel cross, like a lamb to the slaughter, he permitted all these things. He suffered so we can never comprehend what he endured. Why? he loved us. My sins, dear friends, and yours were borne by that Saviour. Could anything but love have prompted him to endure all this, that you and I might be saved? But listen: it seems to me we can almost hear the blows of the hammer driving the nails into his holy hands.

He speaks, prays—what is he saying? Father forgive them, they know not what they do; praying for the very ones who are torturing him. Why? Because he loved us. He died, was buried by kind hands, for even though